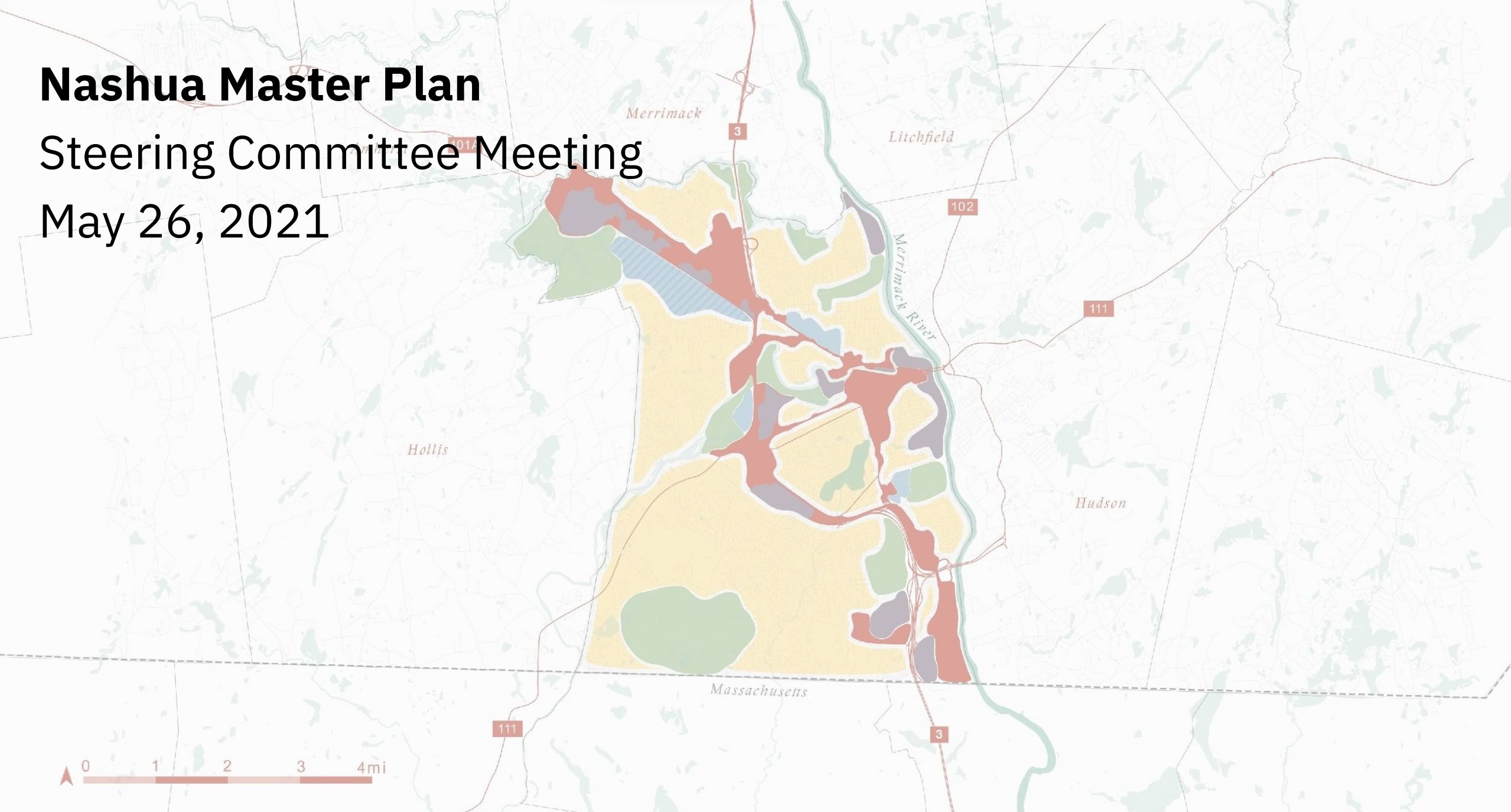


Nashua Master Plan

Steering Committee Meeting

May 26, 2021



Agenda

Quick Timeline Overview

- Action Prioritization & Draft Plan
- Upcoming events & Engagement

Priority Goals + Actions

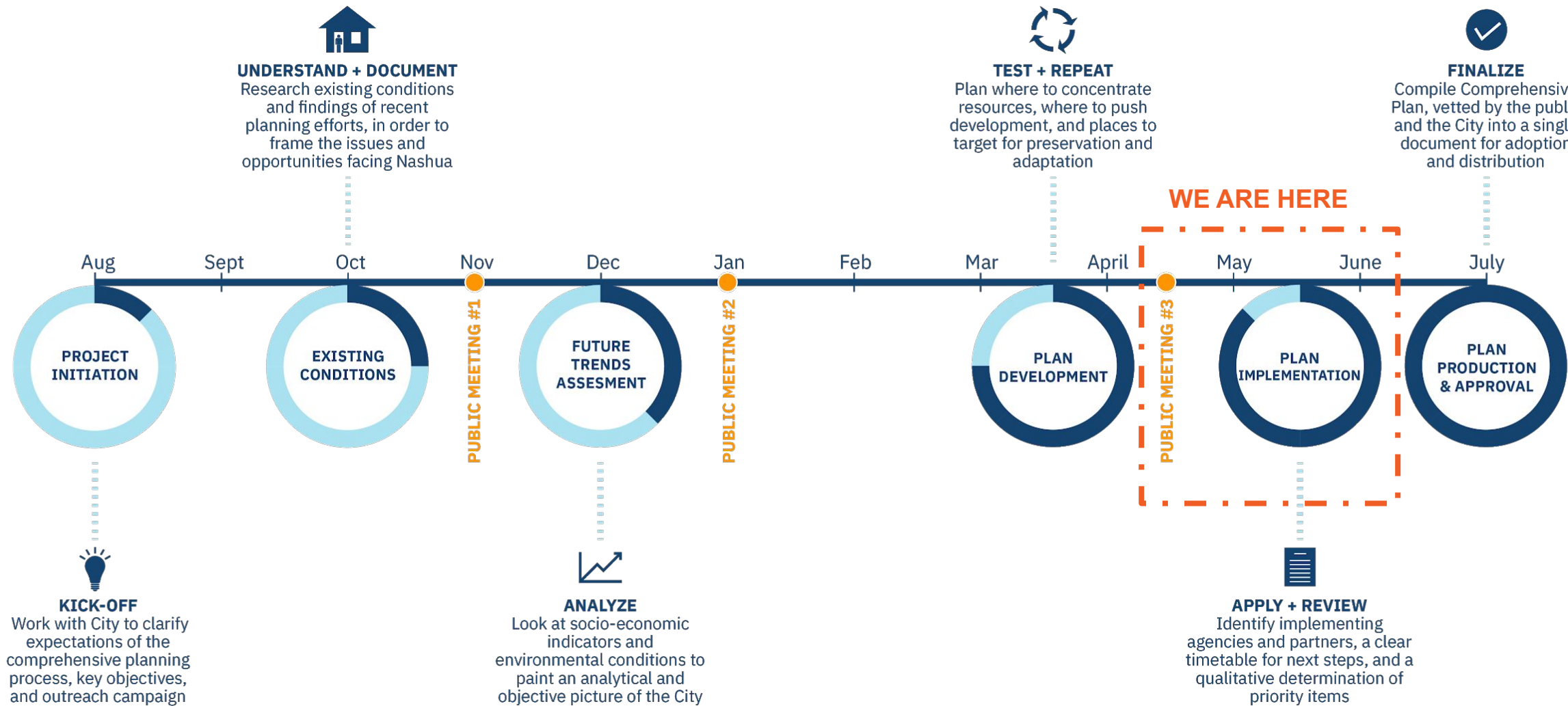
- Framed under core values of equity, resilience and climate protection
- Plan will also include second & third tier actions per topic area

Next Steps

- Action Prioritization
 - Topic focus meetings
 - Website surveys
- Compile Final Draft Document



Imagine Nashua - Timeline



Upcoming Events & Engagement

- Topic Area Focus Groups - all except June 5 are on zoom at 6pm
- Draft actions will be posted online for prioritization/ranking ahead of time
- Zoom details to follow

SAVE THE DATES!

IN-PERSON Meeting on all 6 Topic Areas

When: Saturday, June 5th from 10am to noon

Where: Library Plaza, 2 Court Street, Nashua

Draft Actions Discussions Via Zoom at 6pm

June 3rd: Economic Growth & Development AND Arts & Culture

June 7th: Open Space & Natural Resources

June 10th: Mobility & Transit

June 15th: Land Use & Development

June 21st: Housing

Goal-Action Recap



Building blocks of
the planning process



Land Use &
Development



Housing



Mobility
and Transit



Economic
Development



Open Space &
Natural Resources



Arts and
Culture

Citizen-centered
outcomes to achieve

Goal-Action Recap



Building blocks of
the planning process



Land Use &
Development



Housing



Mobility
and Transit



Economic
Development



Open Space &
Natural Resources



Arts and
Culture

Citizen-centered
outcomes to achieve

Top Goal

Top Goal

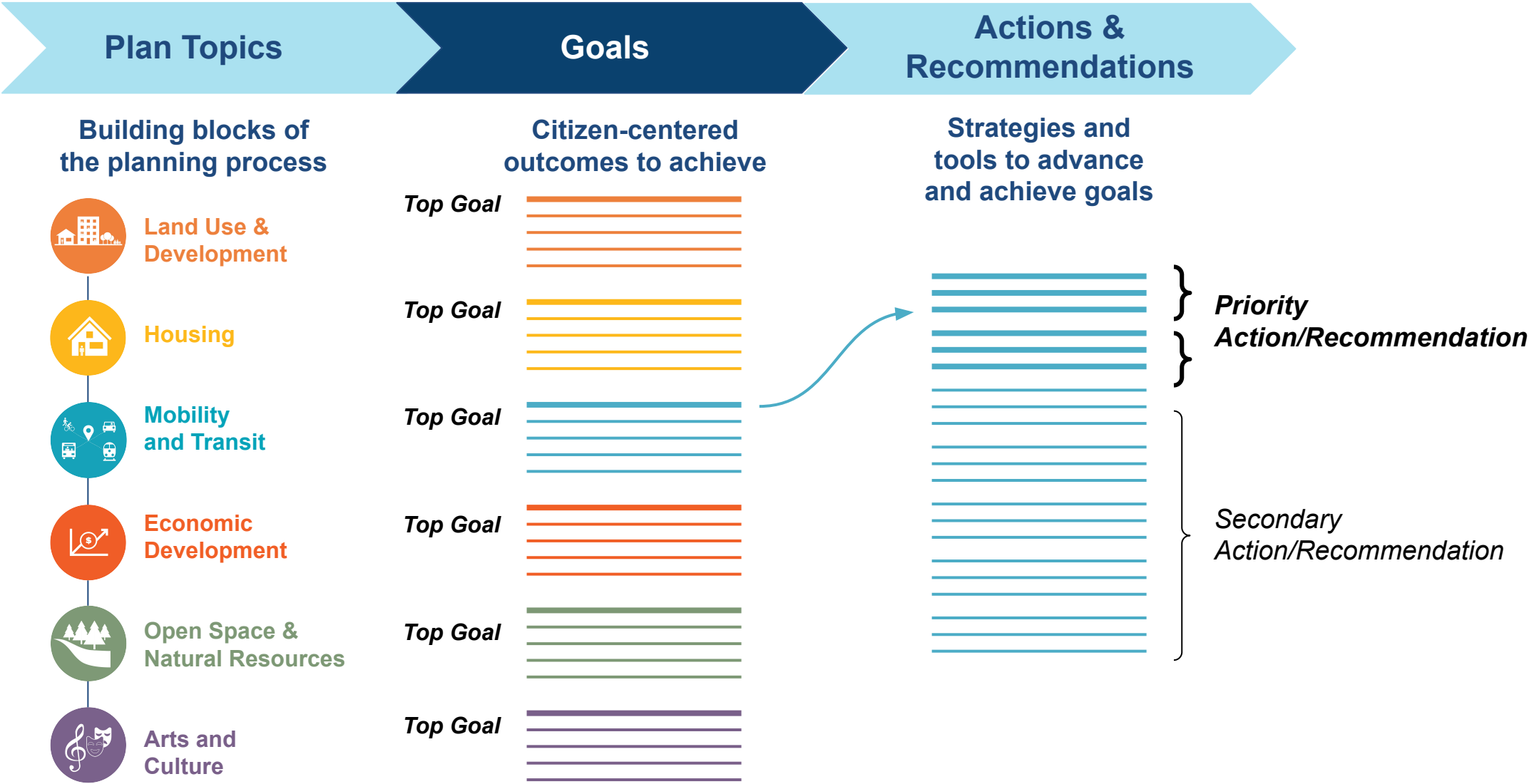
Top Goal

Top Goal

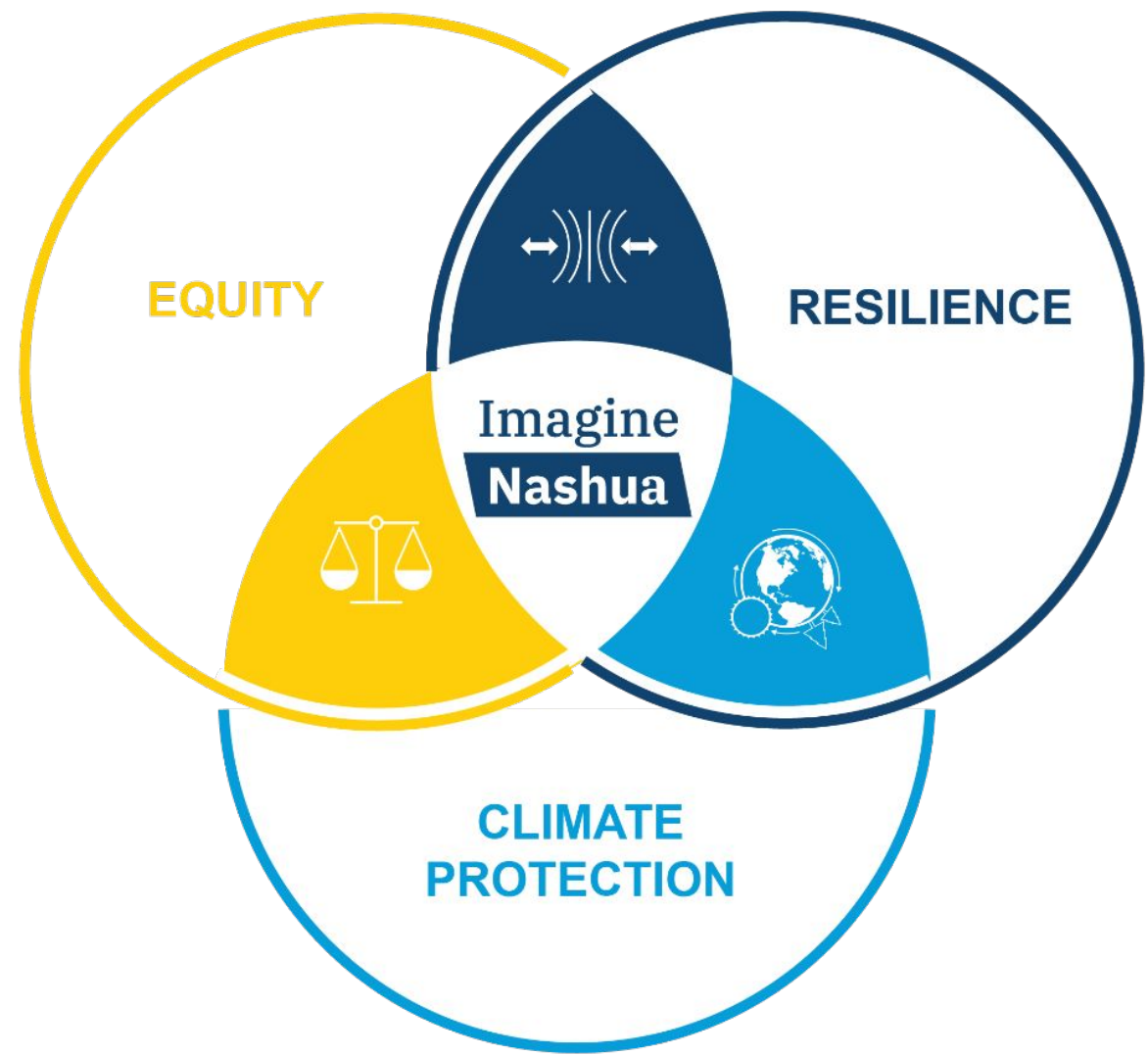
Top Goal

Top Goal

Goal-Action Recap



Imagine Nashua: Core Values

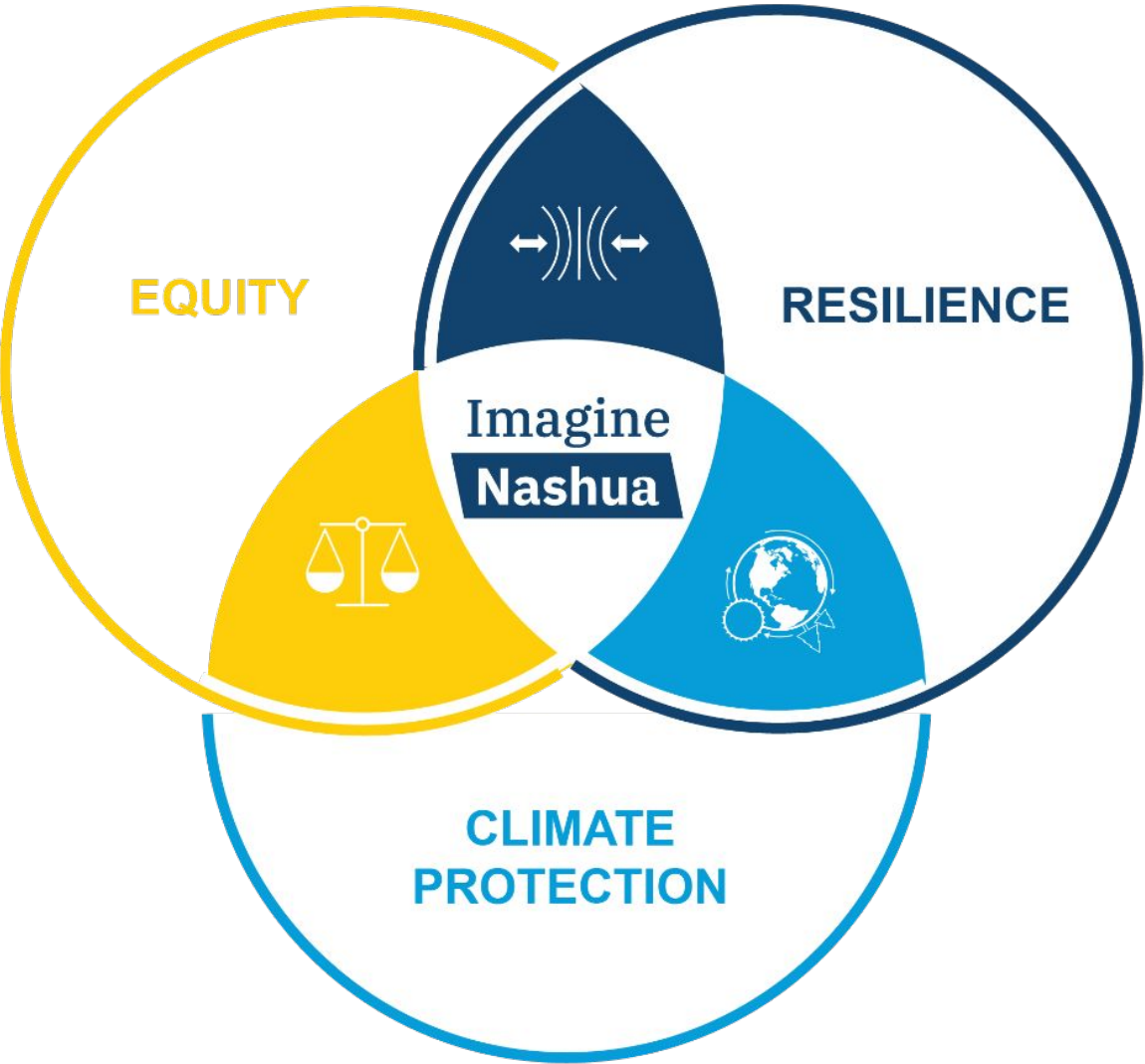


Imagine Nashua: Core Values



Equity

An equitable Nashua is an inclusive place that values its residents, reduces disparities across groups, and eliminates persistent biases and barriers to opportunities based on age, income, ability and cultural and racial background. An equitable approach will take into account the unique needs of individuals and groups in the city and provide options and opportunities to reach their full potential



Resilience

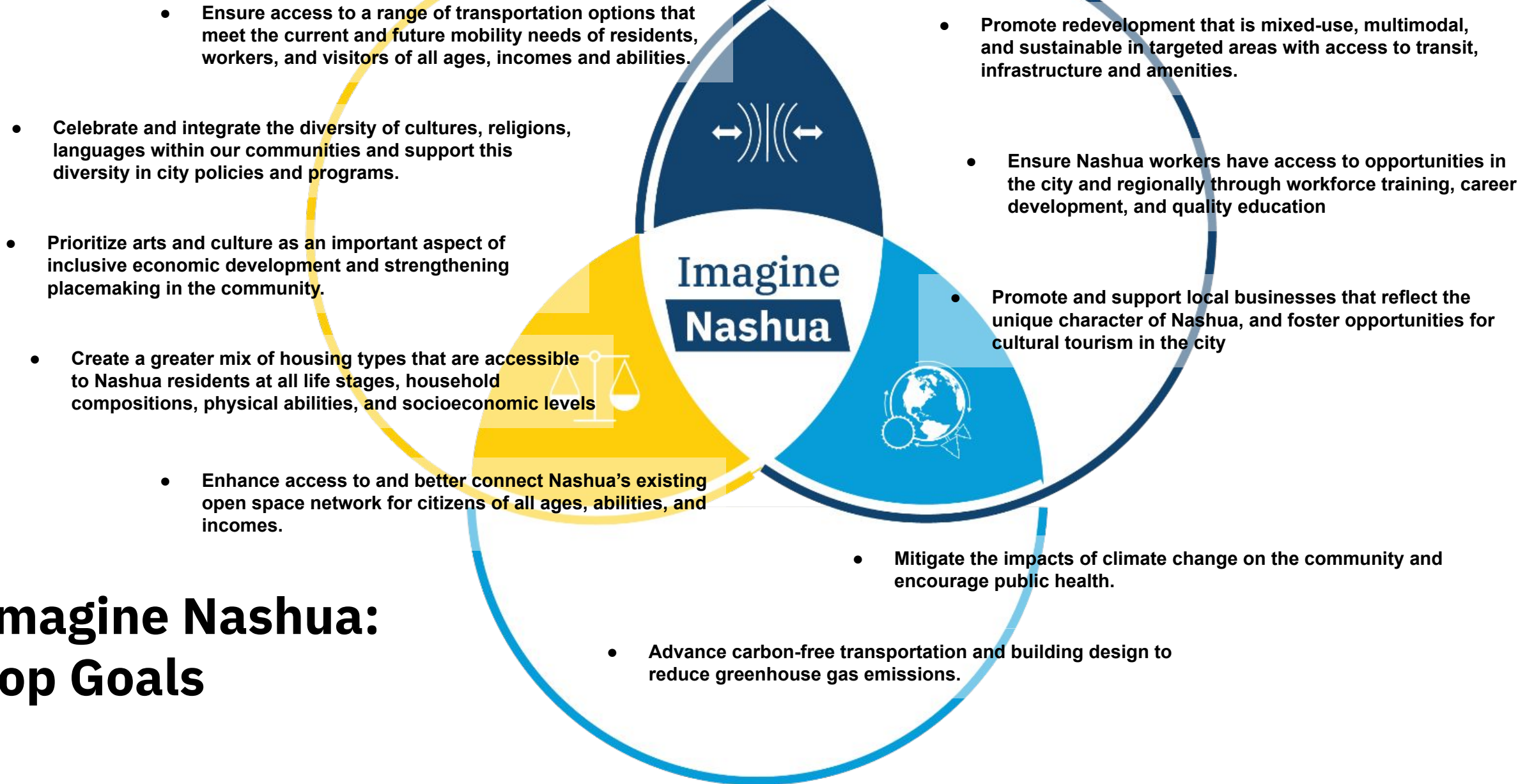
A resilient Nashua is prepared to adapt in the face of change, whether that change is social, environmental, economic, or health-related. A resilient approach will build capacity within individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and grow from the shocks and stresses they experience



Climate Protection

A climate-ready Nashua is prepared for future climate hazards and reduces risks inherent in climate change while building upon current adaptive efforts to mitigate our impact. Nashua must do its part to combat climate change as a member of a regional and global community dedicated to making the world a more sustainable and better place to live.

Imagine Nashua: Top Goals



Imagine Nashua: Priority Actions

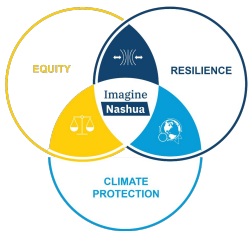
- **Top Goal**

Promote redevelopment that is mixed-use, multimodal, and sustainable in targeted areas with access to transit, infrastructure and amenities.



ACTION

- **Explore ways to make commercial corridors more attractive and coherent** through: Encouraging a wider range of commercial uses and active ground floor uses, Integrating and improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, Incorporating landscaping and green infrastructure elements, Enhancing public realm through facade and signage guidelines
- **Facilitate public realm expansion and improvement on Main St to maintain downtown's commercial activity**, especially along certain sections with active restaurant frontages to create space for seating areas and/or small plazas.
- **Build robust, safe and connected citywide pedestrian and bicycle network.** Improve pedestrian and bicycle access to all open spaces, and recreational areas. Address areas of concern highlighted in the Nashua Bicycle and Pedestrian Project including, Main Street/Downtown, Amherst Street, Daniel Webster Highway, and the North End.
- **Plan proactively around future commuter rail station locations.** Facilitate increased housing development and job centers within walking distance of future commuter rail stations. Create infrastructure for biking and pedestrian access to meet projected needs. Develop a systemic solution for parking

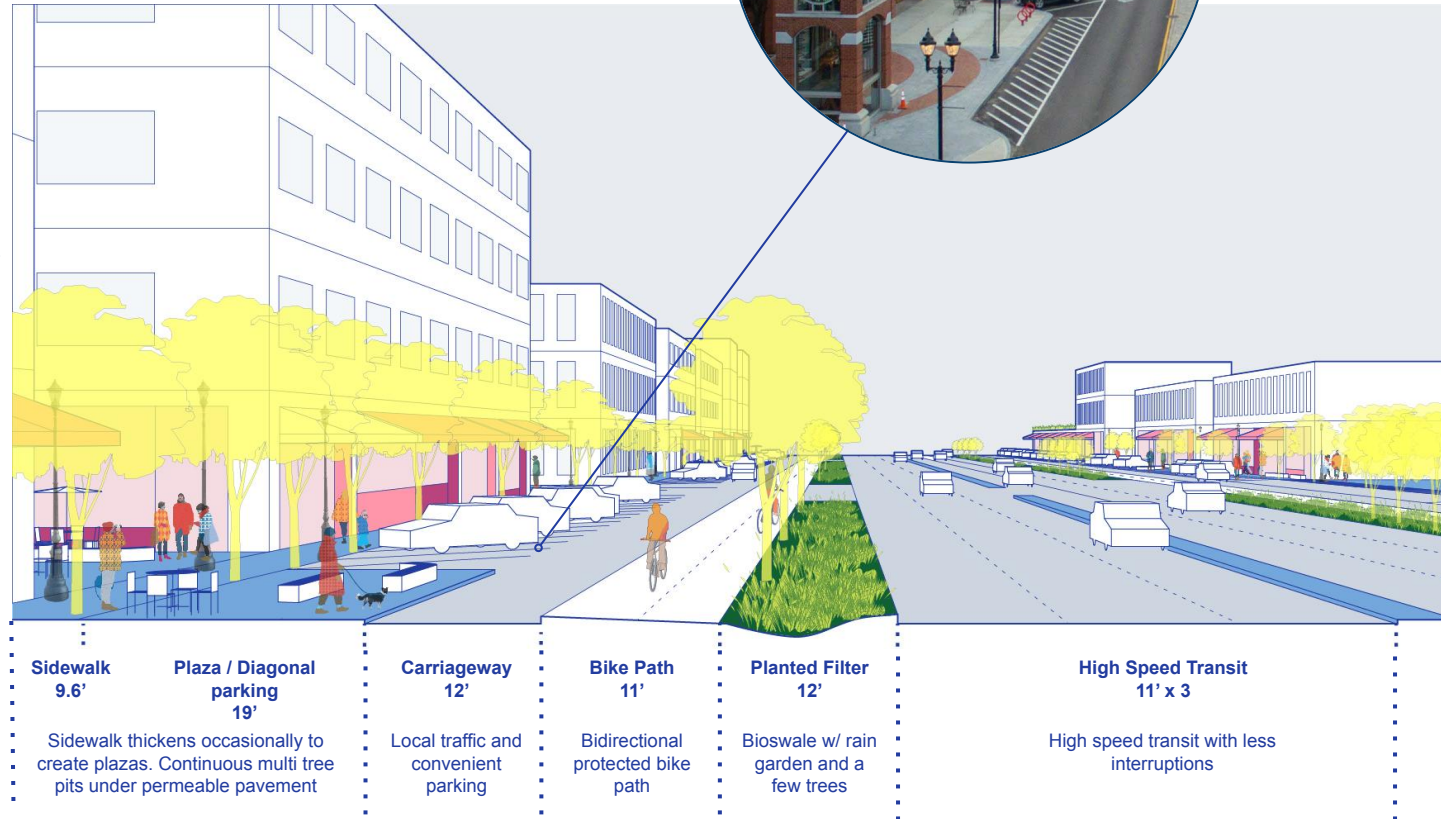


Imagine Nashua: Priority Actions

- **Priority Action**

Explore ways to make commercial corridors more attractive and coherent to promote local business activity

- **Allow upzoning/greater density** to encourage land values that will justify redevelopment of existing income-generating uses
- **Adjust dimensional constraints** to enable new development to have a more walkable, active corridor character
- **Create signage and storefront guidelines** on commercial corridors
- **Incorporate landscaping and green infrastructure** development to improve stormwater management



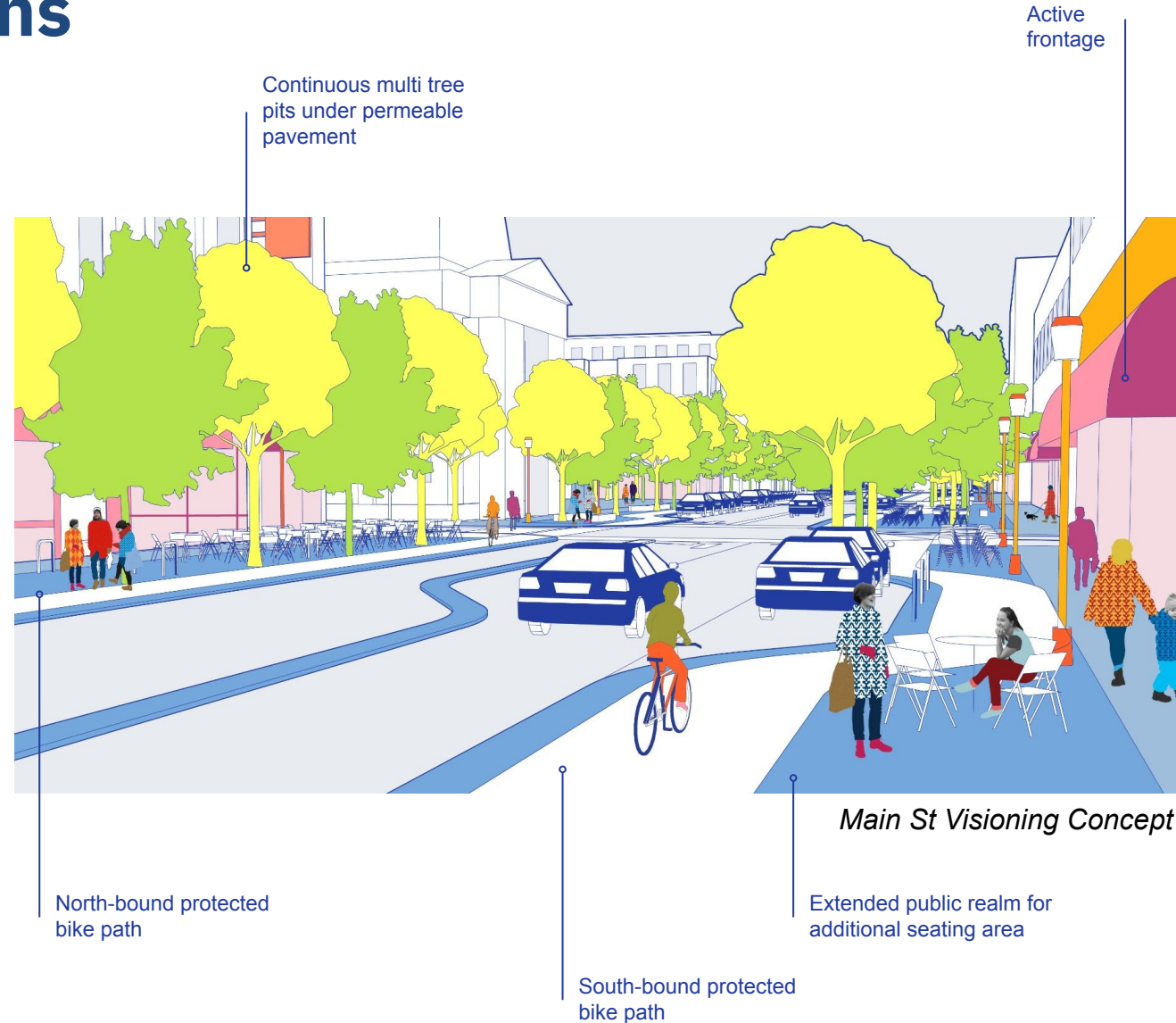
Amherst St Visioning Concept

Imagine Nashua: Priority Actions

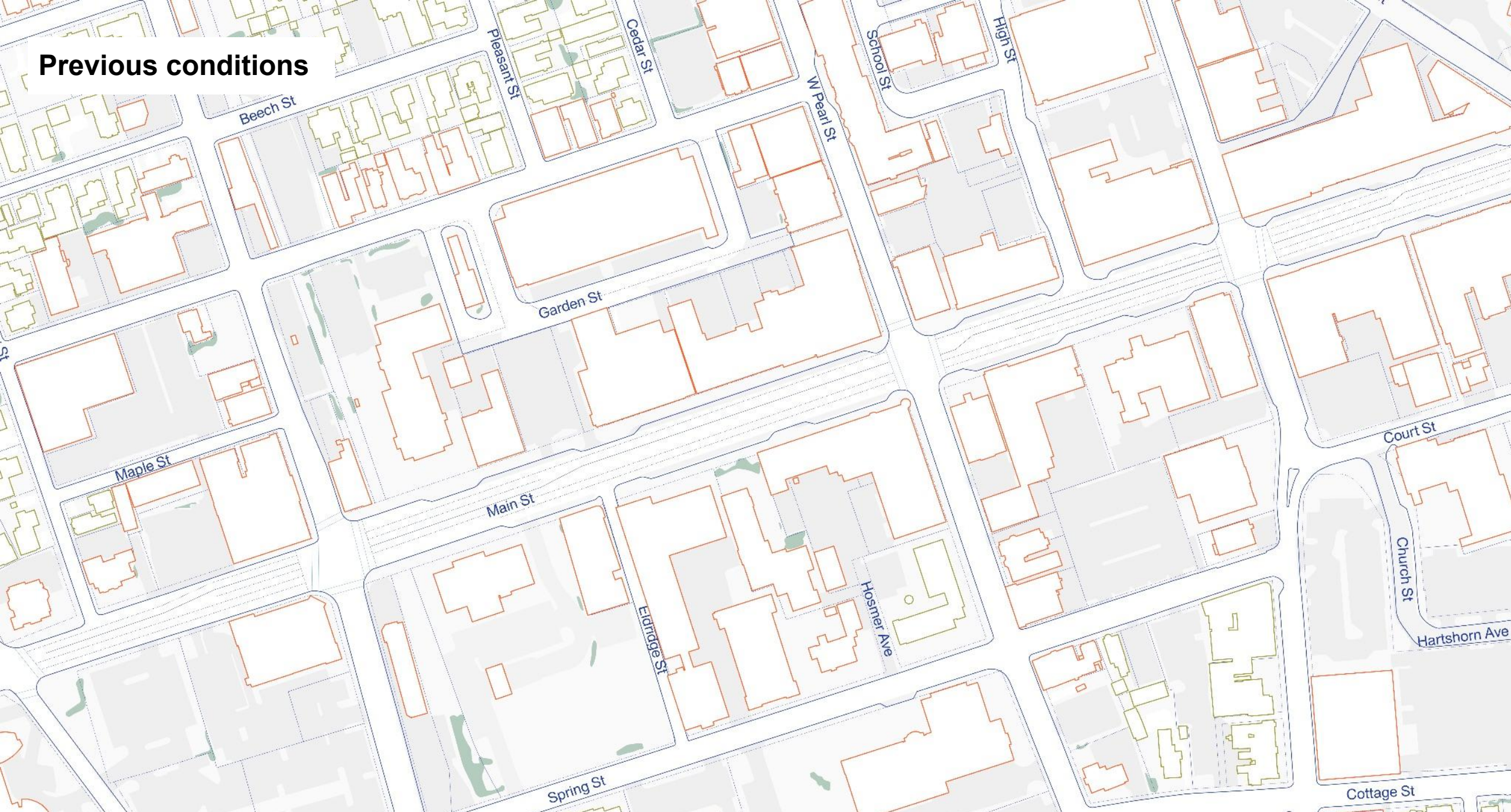
- **Priority Action**

Facilitate public realm expansion and improvement on Main St to maintain downtown's commercial activity

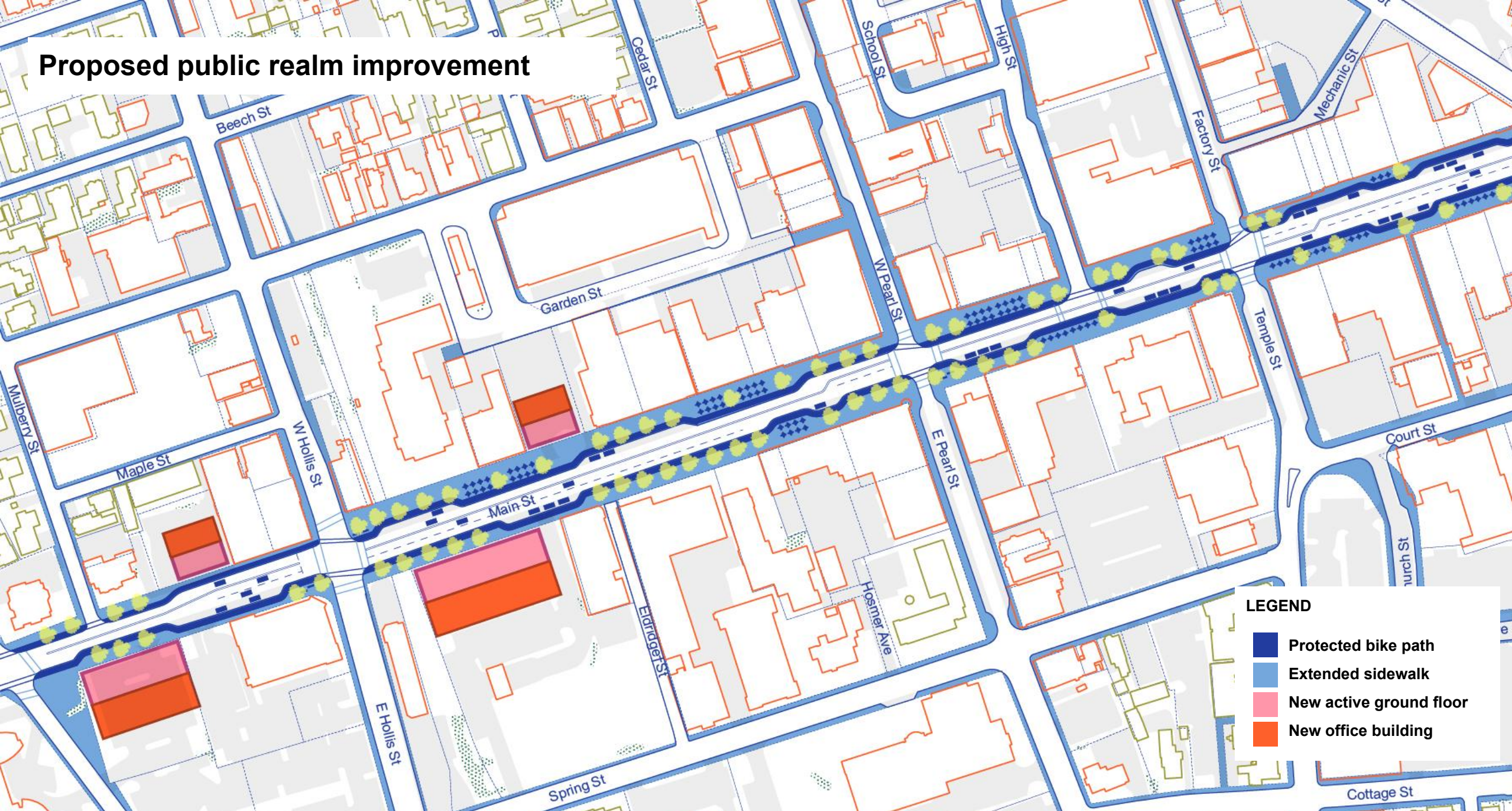
- **Reposition Main St as destination** with consideration for active storefronts with outdoor seating, improved sidewalk conditions, signage and wayfinding, green infrastructure development and improvement
- **Evaluate opportunities for developing protected bicycle lanes** to increase safety and accessibility for all ages and abilities.
- **Consider parking alternatives**
- **Encourage quality infill development** that is consistent with the area and offers opportunities for increased amenities and economic development



Previous conditions



Proposed public realm improvement



LEGEND

- Protected bike path
- Extended sidewalk
- New active ground floor
- New office building

Proposed public realm improvement + parking



LEGEND

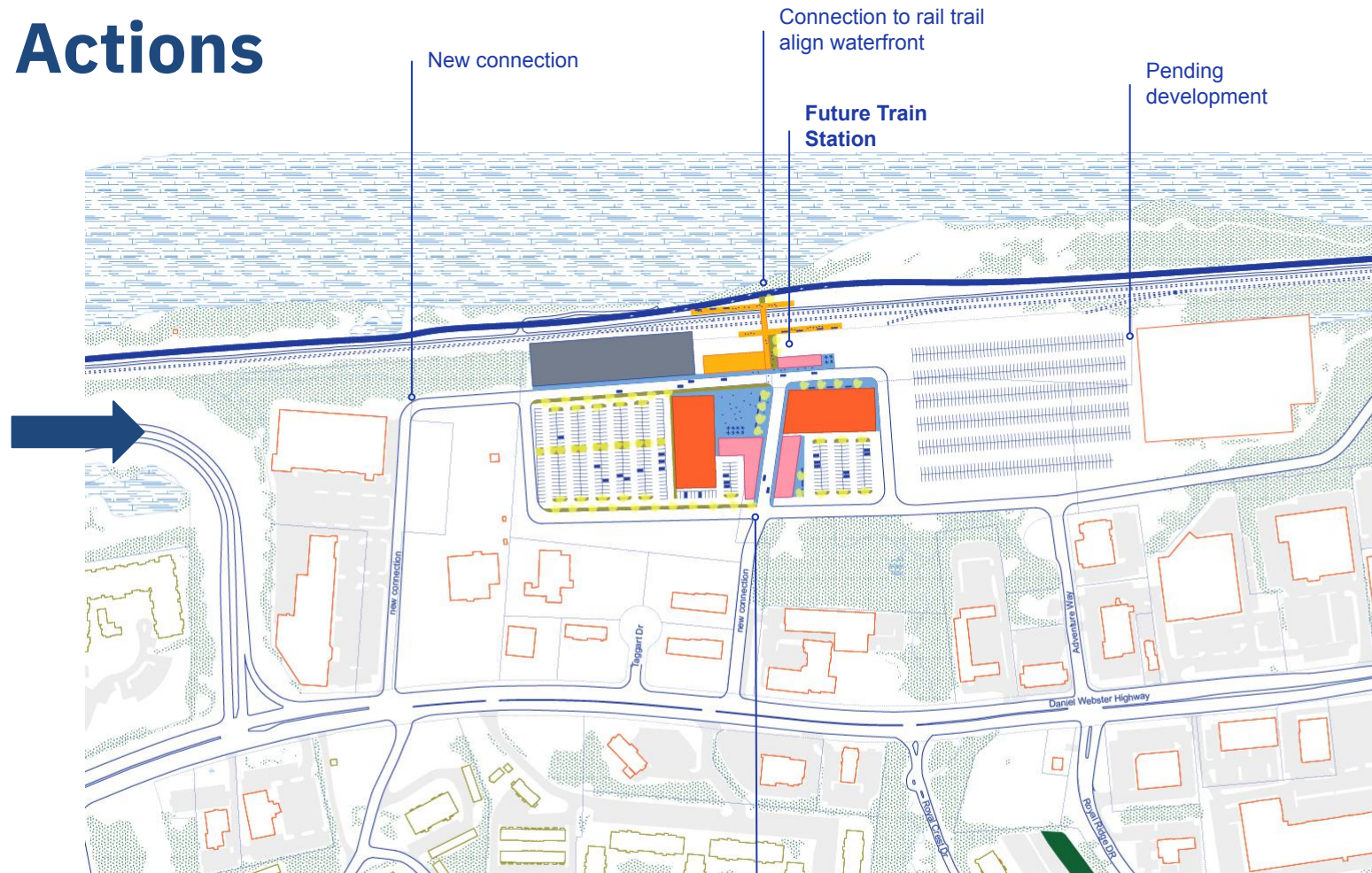
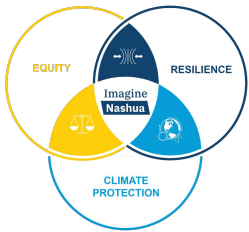
- Restaurants
- Public parking garage
- Public parking lot

Imagine Nashua: Priority Actions

- **Priority Action**

Plan proactively around future commuter rail station locations.

- 25 Crown St downtown station location, South Nashua Dow property - Spit Brook and exit 2
- **Facilitate increased housing development and job centers** within walking distance of future commuter rail stations
- **Create infrastructure for biking and pedestrian access** to meet projected needs
- **Develop a systemic solution for parking**



LEGEND

- Plaza
- Office building
- Active ground floor
- Commuter station

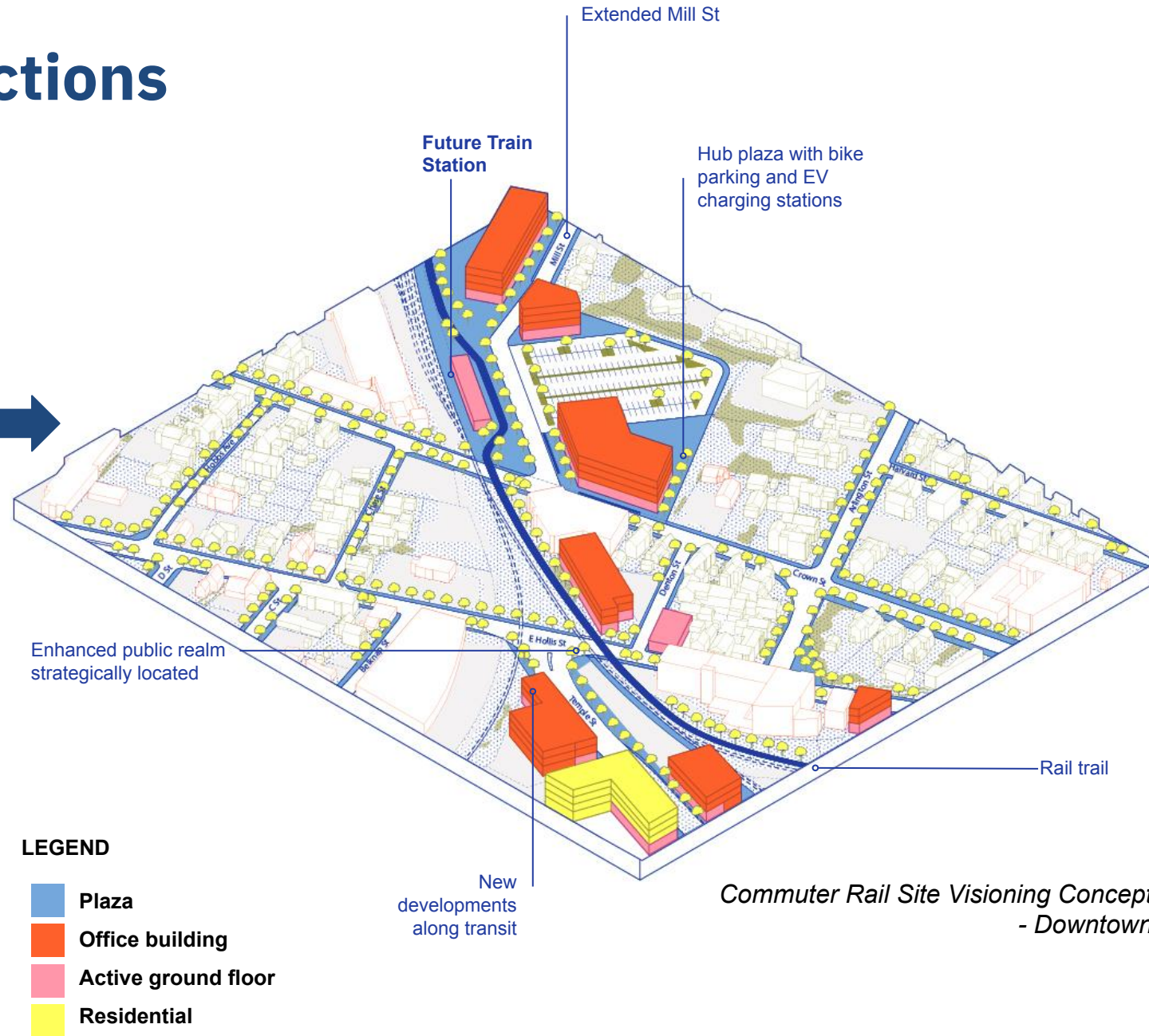
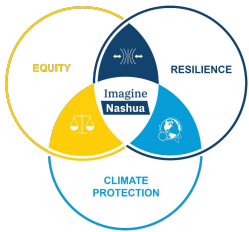
*Commuter Rail Site Visioning Concept
- South Nashua*

Imagine Nashua: Priority Actions

- **Priority Action**

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Imagine Nashua: Priority Actions

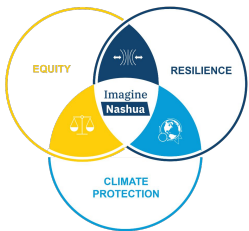
- **Top Goal**

Ensure Nashua workers have access to opportunities in the city and regionally through workforce training, career development, and quality education



ACTION

- **Continue to recruit prospective employers in emerging 21st century industries** including research and development-based employers, life sciences, advanced manufacturing, and other similar technology sectors.
- **Support future development in priority development areas** identified in the Master Plan Process by ensuring reliability and capacity in key physical/social infrastructure such as workforce training, water, sewer, electrical, and broadband.
 - Explore **development incentives/invest in infrastructure along commercial corridors** such as Amherst and Daniel Webster Hwy to position limited key land areas for future **office/mixed-use commercial development** including R&D and appropriate life science opportunities.
- **Revise zoning to allow by-right development typologies** that contain a mix of retail and commercial uses on upper floors and the ability to create high-bay and flexible spaces that are well-suited to new industrial needs.
- **Ensure that there is appropriate land available with adequate footprints** to meet the needs of rapidly growing R&D-based businesses.
- **Encourage and facilitate partnership with local and regional institutions** and employers, to foster innovation industry development, and a workforce pipeline accessible to all Nashua residents.



Imagine Nashua: Priority Actions

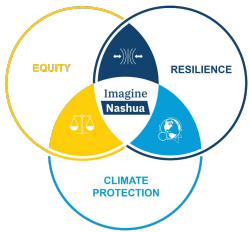
- **Top Goal**

Promote and support local businesses that reflect the unique character of Nashua, and foster opportunities for cultural tourism in the city by encouraging the creation of new small businesses in areas with improved walkability and sufficient customer base density.



ACTION

- **Facilitate co-working spaces and mixed tenant models** in Downtown and other mixed-use development areas in the city to support and promote smaller businesses and creative enterprises.
- **Support public realm improvements and placemaking in Nashua's commercial districts and corridors** with specific focus on improving the overall experience of these districts.
- **Preserve some existing small office space in key locations as affordable** options for emerging small businesses.
- **Create/Update signage ordinance/guidelines** to ensure high quality/attractive signage while being sensitive to the needs and financial capacity of small businesses.



Imagine Nashua: Priority Actions

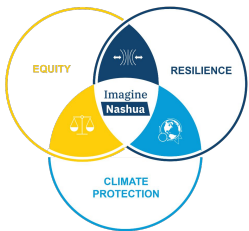
- **Top Goal**

Ensure access to a range of transportation options that meet the current and future mobility needs of residents, workers, and visitors of all ages, incomes and abilities.



ACTION

- **Expand Complete Streets policies and initiatives**
 - Develop Complete Street Guidelines to streamline future design and create dimensional standards.
 - In conjunction with Complete Street Guidelines **update road and sidewalk standards** to meet the needs of all transportation users.
 - Develop Complete Streets **Task Force** to champion transportation efforts in the City.
- **Build robust, safe and connected pedestrian and bicycle network**
 - Address areas of concern highlighted in the Nashua Bicycle and Pedestrian Project including, Main Street/Downtown, Amherst Street, Daniel Webster Highway, and the North End.
- **Expand Rideshare Options**
 - Seek funding through private, public, partnership to reimplement bike share system.
- **Expand transportation services for seniors to encourage aging in place.**
- **Plan proactively around future commuter rail station locations**



Imagine Nashua: **Priority Actions**

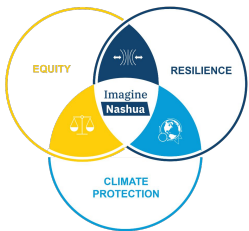
- **Top Goal**

Create a greater mix of housing types that are accessible to Nashua residents at all life stages, household compositions, physical abilities, and socioeconomic levels as identified in the 2020 City Housing Study.



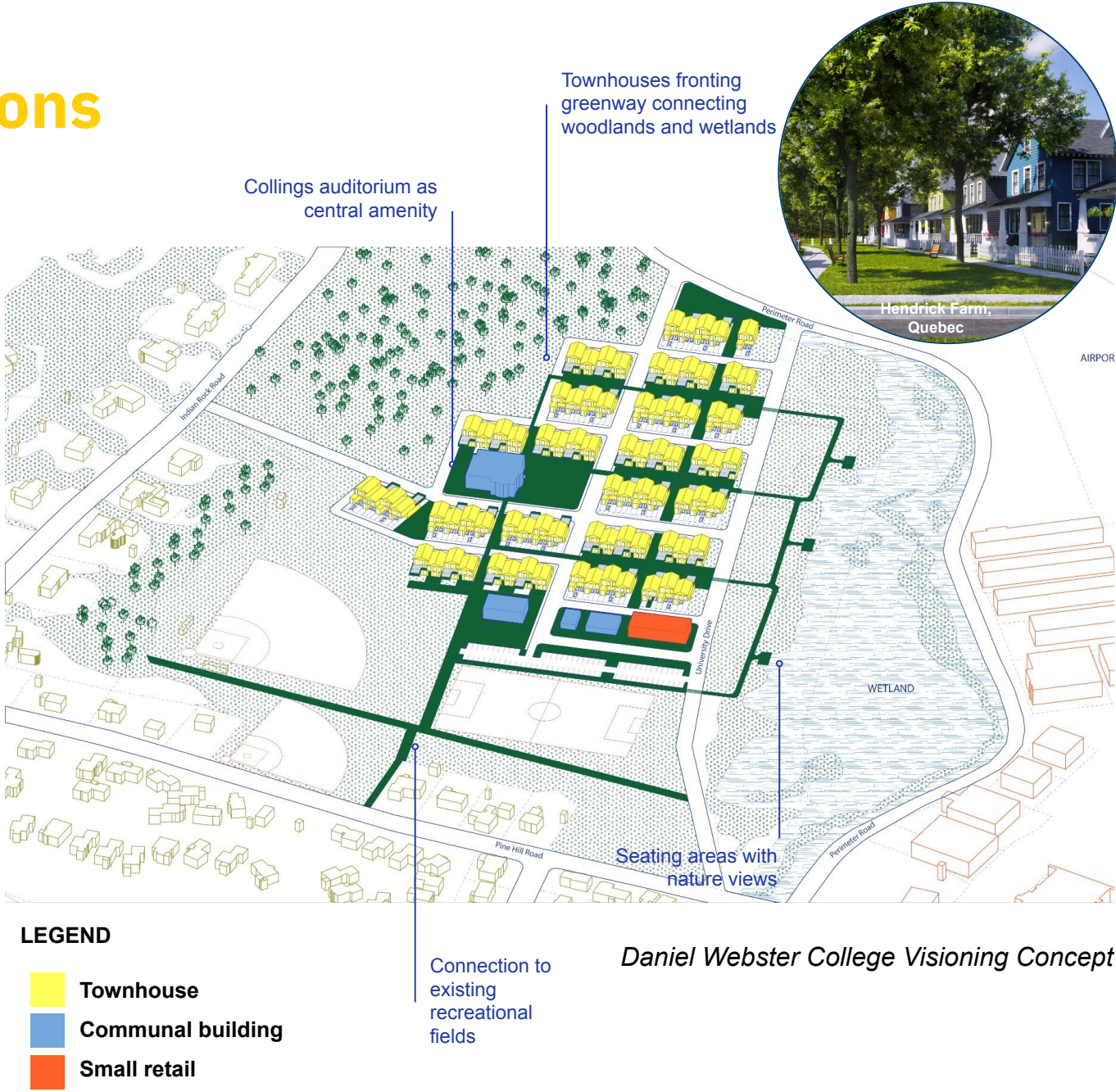
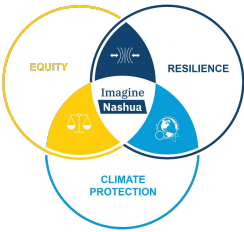
ACTION

- **Promote mixed-income and multigenerational neighborhoods** by enabling the development and distribution of a **wider range of housing** types throughout the city, including two and three-family dwellings, townhomes, and community housing.
- **Allow denser multifamily and mixed-use development through rezoning** in appropriate redevelopment areas identified through the Imagine Nashua visioning and planning process.
- **Create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund**
 - Place the oversight of the Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) within the Community Development Division to **create synergy** with the City's Consolidated Plan, Master Plan, development permitting, and connections with other housing partners.
- **Update inclusionary housing regulations**
 - Consider revising the current Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) policy to **apply to city-wide** to any residential or mixed-use development that exceeds a certain number of units (e.g. any development containing 10 or more units).



Imagine Nashua: Priority Actions

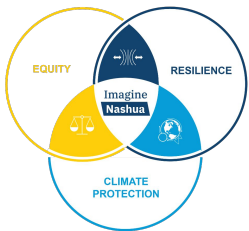
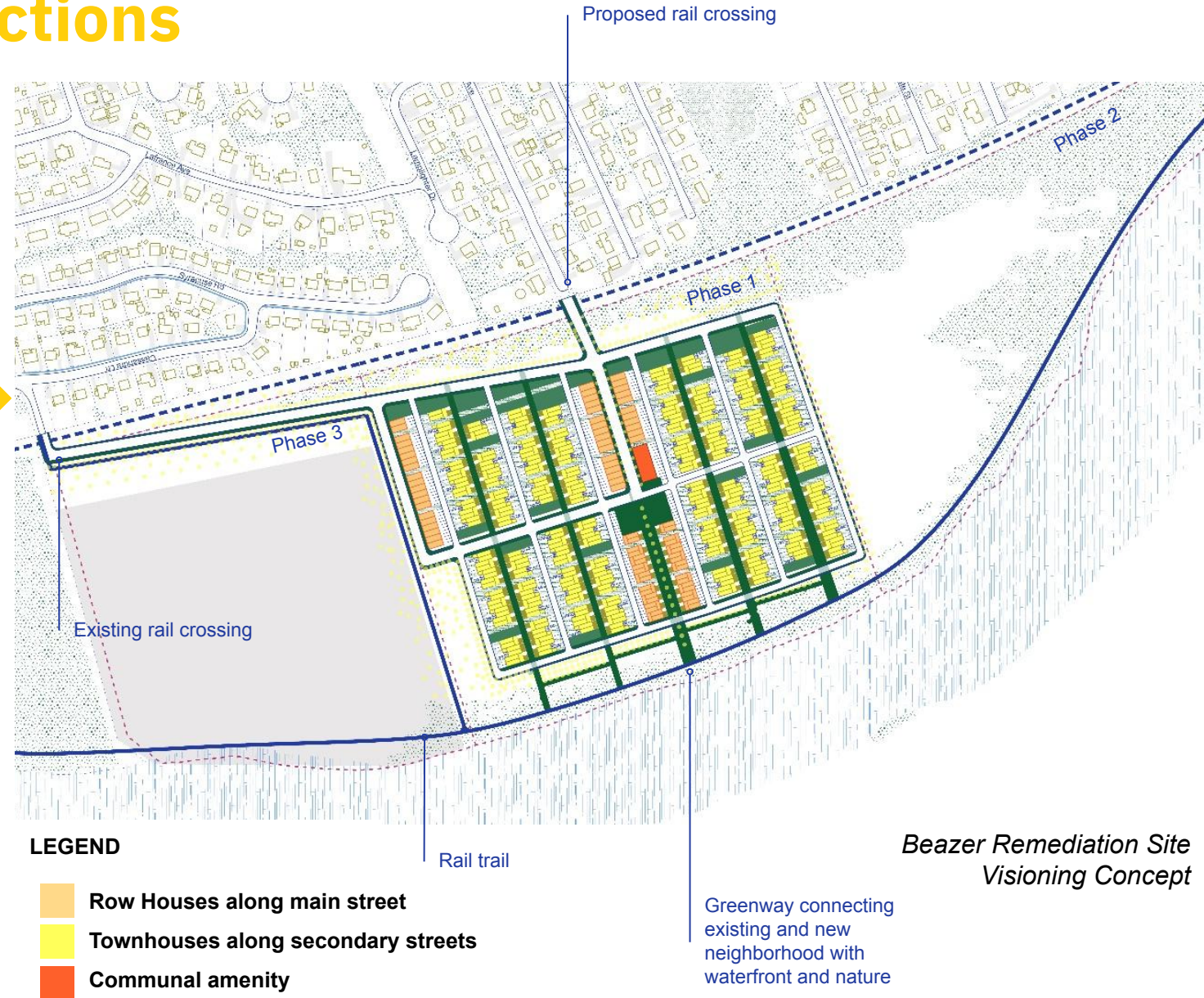
- Priority Action**
Promote mixed-income and multigenerational neighborhoods by enabling the development and distribution of a wider range of housing types throughout the city that are accessible at a range of price points, including two and three-family dwellings, townhomes, and community housing.



Imagine Nashua: Priority Actions

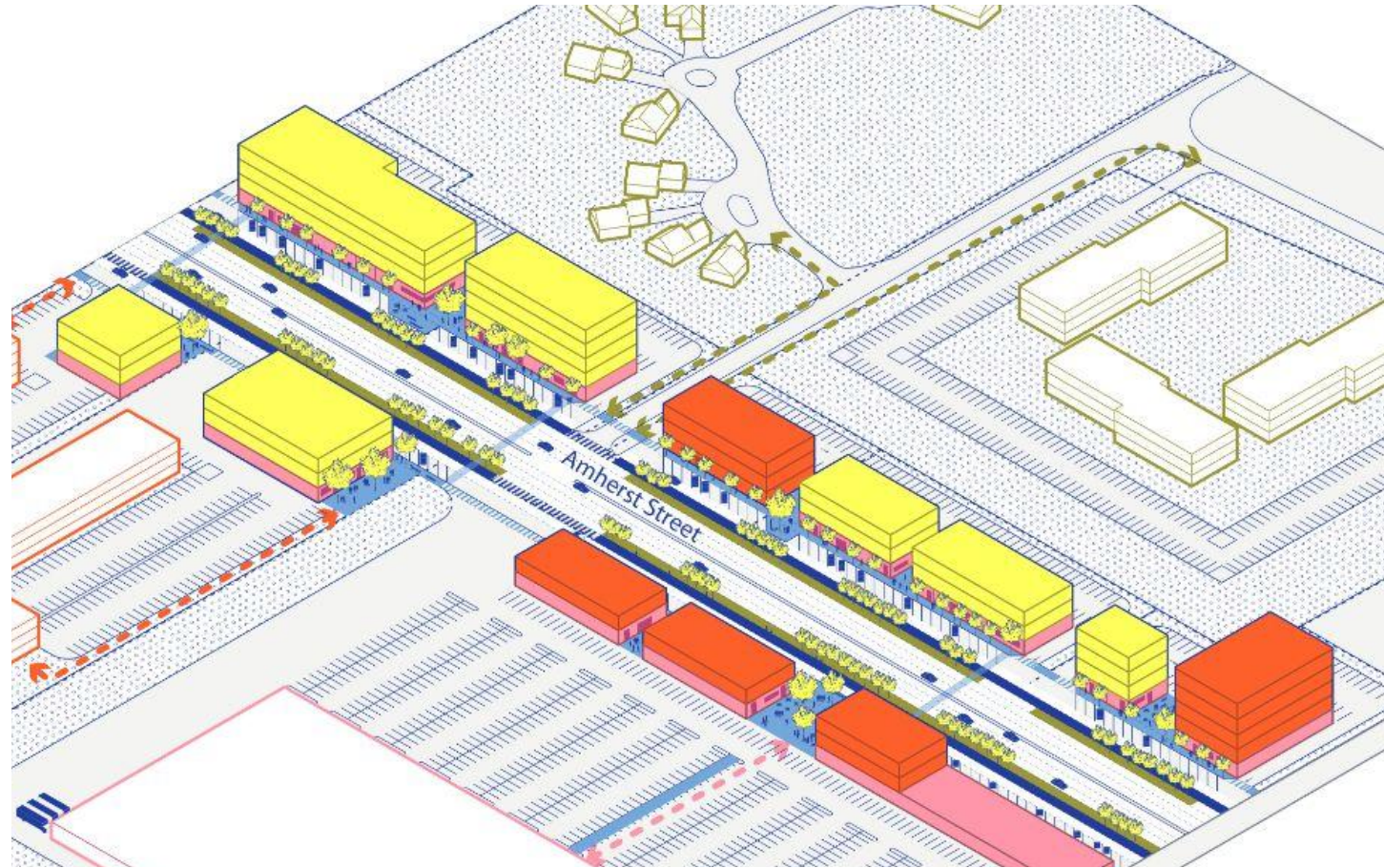
- **Priority Action**

Promote mixed-income and multigenerational neighborhoods by enabling the development and distribution of a wider range of housing types throughout the city that are accessible at a range of price points, including two and three-family dwellings, townhomes, and community housing.



Imagine Nashua: Priority Actions

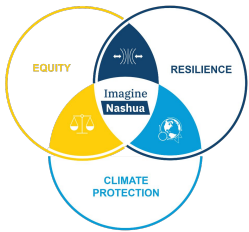
- **Priority Action**
Allow denser multifamily and mixed-use development through rezoning in appropriate redevelopment areas identified through the Imagine Nashua visioning and planning process, to improve the availability of residential and commercial space.



LEGEND

- Residential
- Active ground floor
- Office

Amherst St Visioning Concept



Imagine Nashua: **Priority Actions**

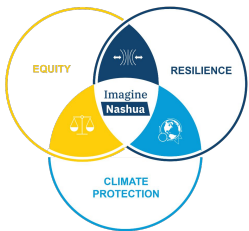
- **Top Goal**

Recognize parks and natural areas as vital elements of Nashua's green network. Enhance access to and better connect Nashua's existing open space network for citizens of all ages, abilities, and incomes.



ACTION

- **Improve public access equitably across the City**
 - **Seek out public, private partnerships to allocate funding to protect the Pennichuck Brook corridor**, including Pennichuck Pond. The area is currently unprotected and at risk of development.
 - **Expand planning for Salmon Brook Corridor** by increasing public access, extending existing conservation land protection, and providing a pedestrian trail.
 - **Review park inventory to determine how accessible parks are** for all residents. Seek funding and build neighborhood parks in areas of the City that are park deficient.
- **Improve and increase public access providing clear wayfinding and signage** for existing recreation, open space, and natural resource sites across the city for pedestrians, bikers, and those travelling by car.
- **Provide recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities:**
 - Invest in universal design retrofits to playgrounds.
 - Identify trails that are appropriate for ADA accessibility upgrades.
- **Create bike and pedestrian access to parks** within all open spaces and recreational areas in the City.
- **Conduct feasibility study to determine how to better connect parks and develop regional connections or wildlife corridors.**



Imagine Nashua: **Priority Actions**

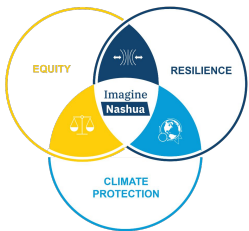
- **Top Goal**

Celebrate and integrate the diversity of cultures, religions, languages within our communities and support this diversity in city policies and programs.



ACTION

- **Improve city regulations to require more user-friendly, flexible public spaces** for events and organizing to enhance interactions between people from different neighborhoods or backgrounds.
- **Require all new developments to provide public amenities and open space** for new residents and the surrounding community.
- **Develop key branding and wayfinding that welcomes people to Nashua.**
 - While working to improve wayfinding and signage in the parks seek funding to expand signage at key entrances to the city and neighborhoods.
 - Consider new locations for murals and sculptures created by local artists. New public art could be featured at key entrances to the City.
 - Engage with business owners to activate storefronts and encourage collaboration with local artists and community organizations.
-



Imagine Nashua: **Priority Actions**

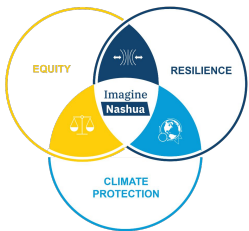
- **Top Goal**

Prioritize arts and culture as an important aspect of inclusive economic development and strengthening placemaking in the community.



ACTION

- **Re-evaluate land use tools to accommodate arts and culture**, such as outdoor venues, and investment in current facilities
 - Seek additional funding to allocate to facility upgrades and new venues.
 - Complete internal feasibility study to determine private partnerships to help fund more events and support small pop-up music venues.
 - Research new locations for small venues or pop-up events.
- **Work with existing theaters and performance halls** to develop special media advertising and marketing for future events to attract more visitors.
- **Create an online booking platform for all parks and performance space** so community groups can better utilize space.
- **Develop meaningful partnerships with city agencies and civic groups** to enhance connections and communications with students, elderly population and cultural sector



Imagine Nashua: **Priority Actions**

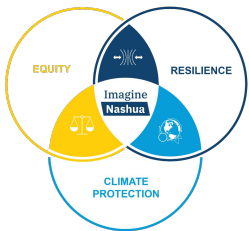
- **Top Goal**

Advance carbon-free transportation and building design to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



ACTION

- **Encourage the accelerated adoption of electric vehicles.**
 - Develop public awareness campaign to encourage consumer purchase of electric vehicles.
 - Increase the number of City-owned Level 2 charging stations.
 - Build City-owned Level 3 (DCFC) charging stations.
 - Increase number of City-owned electric vehicles.
 - Ensure that new development is EV-ready, and consider right-to-charge ordinance for multifamily housing.
- **Phase out fossil fuel systems for heating and appliances and encourage the retrofit of full electrification for existing buildings.**
- **Leverage land use regulations and zoning policy to reduce the climate impact of new development**
 - Create design and performance-based guidelines to address environmental impacts of new development following green building standards
- **Adopt a metric for the Social Cost of Carbon** based on current climate science estimates, to estimate a dollar cost for the economic damage resulting from the current emissions of carbon dioxide.
- **Achieve citywide carbon neutral electricity by 2050.**
 - Implement municipal community electricity aggregation drawing on renewable electricity generated regionally.



Imagine Nashua: Priority Actions

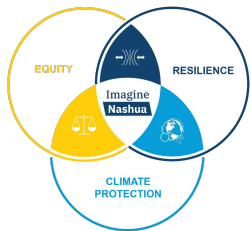
- **Top Goal**

Mitigate the impacts of climate change on the community and encourage public health.



ACTION

- **Promote physical exercise, walking, biking, and public transit through built environment improvements.**
- **Incorporate resiliency planning into the design, development, and maintenance of recreational and open spaces**
 - Create a citywide management plan to address invasive species and encourage the use of native species and pollinator-friendly landscaping in city owned and maintained open spaces.
 - Provide training for existing and future employees to properly maintain areas with green infrastructure, invasives, and pollinators.
- **Update wetland, flood protection and stormwater management ordinances to protect future flood zones, and expand flood zone buffers, and mitigate increased flood pressure from new development and redevelopment projects.**
- **Develop a robust climate action and resilience plan for Nashua**
 - Build upon research from 2017 Climate and Health Adaptation Plan findings by the NRPC.
 - Address Heat island effect and determine areas throughout the city that were identified as high priority in CHAP such as the French Hill neighborhood.
 - Collaborate with the University of New Hampshire's Center for Infrastructure Resilience to Climate to determine areas in Nashua that are most vulnerable to increased precipitation and riverine flooding risk.
- **Adapt City infrastructure to prepare for climate change**
 - Conduct risk analysis of City assets' potential for future flooding and adopt risk factor into asset management practices.
 - Add resilience into project scoring within Capital Planning.



Next Steps

Finalized Draft List

- Full draft actions and recommendations posted to website by end of week

Action Prioritization

- Topic Meetings throughout June
- Outdoor Event - All Topic actions & recommendations
- Online Polling - All Topic actions & recommendations

Draft Plan (---?)

- Coalesce existing conditions, vision and goals, issues and opportunities, scenario development, and recommendations into a clear, cohesive, and accessible document for review